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Message Text

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46/43
ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 CPR-02 ARA-10 EUR-10 SY-02 DRC-01

SSO-00 /065 W
---------- 002036
P R 031201Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3708
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR TEXT PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2)

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, CT
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S TRAVELS

REF: PARIS 25415; BANGUI 1058

1. CAR FOREIGN MINISTER POTOLOT ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM OCTOBER 2 TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BOKASSA. POTOLOT SAID THAT PRESIDENT BOKASSA HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE US PRIVATELY BEGINNING OCTOBER 10 OR 12, RIGHT AFTER AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO HAITI. US TRIP GREW OUT OF AN INVITATION TAKEN BY US ASTRONAUTS AFTER THEIR VISIT TO CAR THIS SUMMER. ASTRONAUTS HAD EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BOKASSA WOULD VISIT INSTALLATIONS IN US AND SUBSEQUENTLY MR. JOSIS OF DDI AND CERTAIN HOUSTON BUSINESSMAN HAD ALSO BECOME INVOLVED IN ARRANGMENETS FOR BOKASSA'S TRIP. SINCE THIS WAS CHIEF OF STATE VISIT, ALBEIT PRIVATE,DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD BEEN INVOLVED AND A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON HAD BEEN REQUESTED, POTOLOT SAID.
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2. POTOLOT EXPLAINED THAT, BECAUSE OF DISORDERS IN HAITI, BOKASSA'S OFFICIAL VISIT HERE HAD BEEN POSTPONED. SINCE THE US PRIVATE VISIT IS NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH AN OFFICIAL HAITIAN VISIT, POTOLOT SAID THAT FROM PROTOCOL VIEWPOINT BOKASSA COULD NOT MAKE THIS TRIP WITHOUT THE ASSURANCE OF AN APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT NIXON. BOKASSA IS NOW IN FRANCE WHERE HE WILL AWAIT A REPLY CONCERNING THE CALL ON PRESIDENT NIXON WHICH HAD BEEN REQUESTED FOR OCTOBER 15. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THT BOKASSA ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS VISIT AND VERY MUCH HOPES FOR A REPLY BY OCTOBER 4 OR 5.

3. I SAID THAT WHILE NOT KNOWLEDGEABLE ON THE SITUATION, I WOULD TRANSMIT THIS MESSAGE PROMPTLY TO WASHINGTON. WHILE HESITANT TO COMMENT ON A MATTER OF WHICH I WAS NOT INFORMED, I COULD MAKE TWO POINTS TO FOREIGN MINISTER POTOLOT. THE FIRST WAS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAD A CROWDED AND BUSY SCHEDULE THIS AUTUM, WHICH INEVITABLY COMPLICATED BY THE UNGA CURRENTLY MEETING IN NEW YORK. SECONDLY, THAT IT WAS NOT UNUSUAL FOR A CHEIF OF STATE TO MAKE A PRIVATE VISIT TO THE US WITHOUT CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT.

4. COMMENT: BOKASSA'S VIEWPOINT MAY BE CONDITIONED BY FACT THAT DURING PRIVATE VISITS TO PARIS HE USUALLY GETS TO SEE POMPIDOU AND DURING RECENT PRIVATE VISIT TO USSR HE SAW KOSYGIN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST A REPLY IN TIME FOR ME TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THIS REQUEST BY OCTOBER 5. FFROM THIS UNINFORMED VANTAGE POINT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT A NEGATIVE REPLY WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO NO RESPONSE AT ALL.

DECONTROL 12/31/74.
IRWIN

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